**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrochemical lead-acid battery having ~~(an)~~ a sulfuric acid electrolyte containing an organic polymer and an ultra fine coniferyl alcohol lignin having a particle size between about 0.01 and about 0.8 micron.

2. (Original) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 1 wherein the ultra fine lignin has a particle size between 0.1 and about 0.6.

3. (Previously Amended) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 1 wherein the organic polymer is at least one organic polymer selected from the group consisting essentially of polyacrylic acid or its copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol and ethylene glycol.

4. (Previously Amended) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 1 wherein the electrolyte also contains at least one additional additive selected from the group of materials consisting essentially of indium, tin, lead sulfate, barium sulfate and mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously Amended) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 4 wherein the electrolytes also contain an antimony as an impurity.

6.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 2 wherein the electrolyte also contains at least one additional additive selected from the group of materials consisting essentially of indium, tin, lead sulfate, barium

sulfate, and mixtures thereof.

9.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The electrochemical lead-acid battery of claim 1 ~~(2)~~ wherein a process step is added ~~(A process of discharging a lead-acid battery having a charge sufficient for sustaining a high current of at least 0.3C for a time period of at least five minutes and the battery containing an electrolyte active component and adding to the electrolyte of the battery at least one organic polymer)~~ comprising the step of discharging the battery at a high current rate of at least 0.3C for at least five minutes.

15.-20. (Canceled)